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Wasatch



1 Reserve
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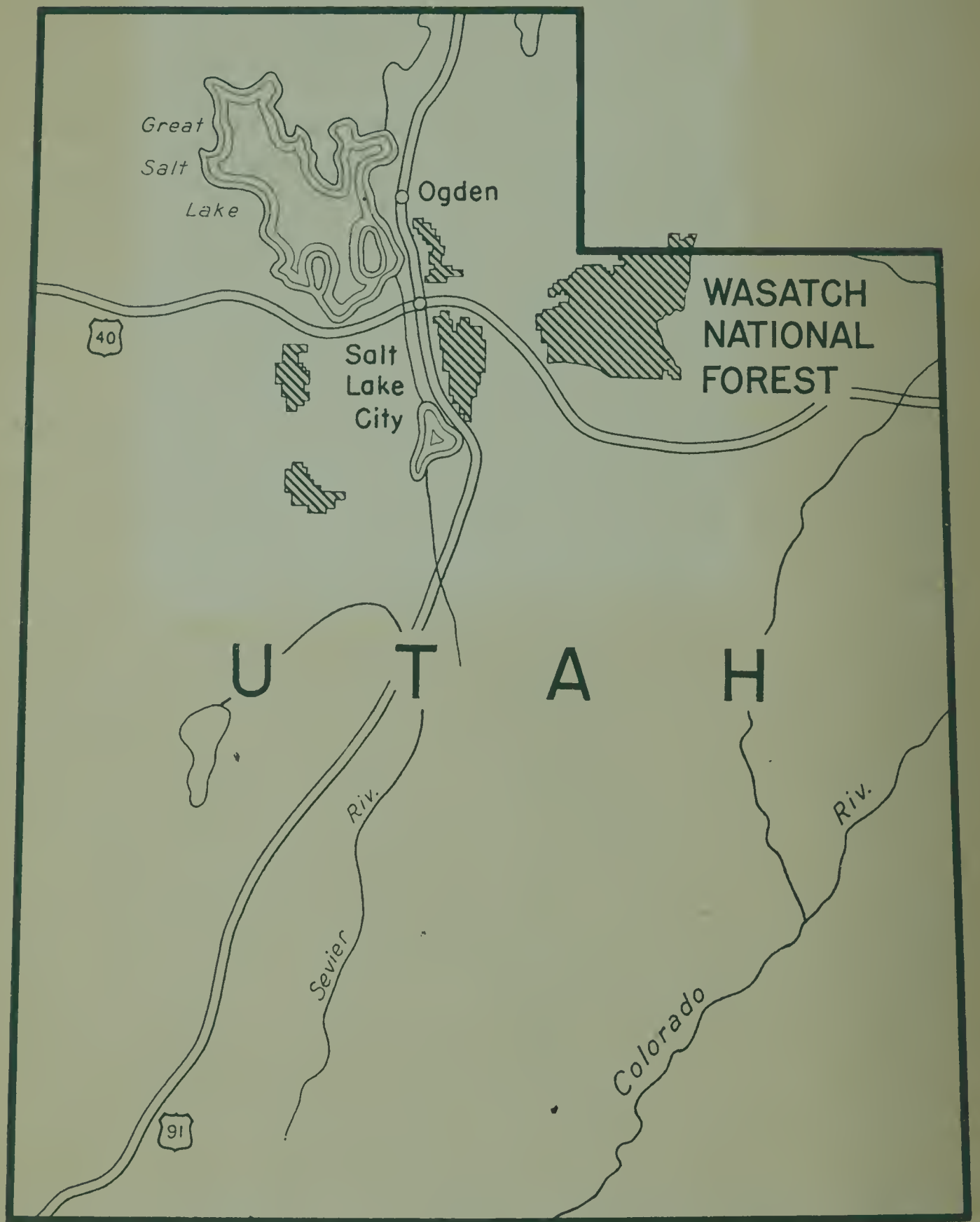
NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

²
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

⁵⁰
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THE WASATCH NATIONAL FOREST AND ITS ADMINISTRATION

Wasatch National Forest, with its water, recreation, timber, mineral, forage, and wildlife resources, encompasses 1,025,000 acres of rough mountainous country in north central Utah. Its name is an Indian word said to mean "a high mountain pass," and it comes from the Ute or Piute languages. These tribes were living in the semidesert valleys of Utah when the first white explorers, trappers, and the Mormon settlers arrived.

The Wasatch and 151 other national forests in the United States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico, were established to conserve the natural resources within their boundaries. This does not mean that these resources are held in reserve. It means that they are managed on a sustained-yield basis; that is, the timber, forage, and wildlife are harvested no faster than they are renewed, and recreation areas and water and soil values are preserved.

The national forests might be considered as forest farms that supply a number of crops. These farms belong to the people of the United States and are managed for them by the Forest Service following the guiding principle, "the greatest beneficial returns to the greatest number of people consistent with continued production through the years."

As a farm may have meadow lands best suited to pasture, bottom lands best suited to row crops, and bench lands best for fruits or berries, so the forest farm has areas destined by nature to produce a certain crop or combination of crops. The entire area of the Wasatch National Forest serves to produce water; some sections produce timber but very little forage; some, forage and no timber; others contribute both timber and forage; and some, particularly along roads and streams, are more important for recreational use.

This forest is divided into five districts, with a ranger in charge of each. The Forest Supervisor is in general charge of the forest's many activities. His headquarters are in Salt Lake City, Utah. Rangers are located at Salt Lake City, for the Salt Lake District; at Kamas, for the Kamas District; at Stockmore, near Hanna, for the Granddaddy Lakes District; at Pleasant Grove, for the American Fork, Vernon, and Grantsville divisions of the American Fork District; and at Evans-ton, Wyo., for the Blackfork District.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

The highlands of the Wasatch National Forest overlook the most thickly populated, heavily industrialized, and intensively farmed lands in Utah. None of the development in these semidesert valleys would be possible without life-giving water from the nearby mountains.

The fertile but dry valleys of Utah receive about 10 to 15 inches of precipitation each year. This is not sufficient to support the State's intensive irrigation agriculture. Neither can the heavy water demands for home and industry be

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Well-vegetated watersheds absorb falling rain and melting snow, and release the water slowly as clear, cold, dependable streams to the thirsting valleys below.

met without water from the adjacent mountains. These mountains, with peaks from 7,000 to 13,500 feet in elevation, comb moisture from the clouds, 30 to 40 inches of it in a year, and store it for later delivery to the valleys below.

When mountain slopes are protected from fire and overuse by grazing animals, the soil is porous and covered with litter. In such condition it usually can hold water from the heaviest rains or the most rapid snow melt. In some cases it may absorb and hold back as much as half its volume of water, slowly releasing it to furnish clear, steady stream flow to fill city water systems, replenish industrial reservoirs, and irrigate thirsty crops.

Forty cities, towns, and communities, and the surrounding farming and industrial areas are dependent on the Wasatch National Forest either wholly or in part for their water. The clear mountain streams and springs yield cool, palatable water of such quality that an eastern tourist remarked as she drank from a Salt Lake City street fountain, "Why, they have a refrigeration system under the street to cool this spring water." Almost every stream of any size along the Wasatch front from Layton to Orem now supplies water for home use, and yet the demand for water grows. Further expansion of Utah's agriculture also depends directly upon the procurement of more water.



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Scenic, powerful, the lifeblood of the land. Water determines the existence and expansion of cities, agriculture, and industry in the semidesert West. Upper Falls of the Provo River.

The use of water in industry has been so overshadowed by domestic and irrigation demands that its importance has not been generally realized. An illustration of the dependency of industry upon an adequate water supply, and of the importance of water for further industrial expansion in the State, is the Geneva steel plant in Utah Valley. This plant alone uses 65,000 gallons of water in the production of each ton of steel.

Watershed values on the Wasatch National Forest are extremely high and every drop of available water is "liquid gold." The watersheds must be protected at all cost, and for this reason the Forest Service plans its administration around water conservation. Well-managed watersheds provide pleasant recreation, inspiring scenery, good forage, plentiful game, abundant timber, and continuous supplies of water.

RECREATION

The hurry and strain of our national life has emphasized the great value of outdoor recreation as a relief from our daily cares. Recreation has taken its place along with timber production and watershed protection as one of the major contributions being made to our citizens by the national forests. The Wasatch is rich in scenic, geological, biological, and recreational resources. Through picnicking, camping, skiing, wilderness travel, broad highways and trackless expanses—the Wasatch affords relaxation to fit almost any taste. Recreation facilities are used by some 300,000 people for an estimated 1½ million visits each year. The roads in the canyons along the Wasatch front are lined with well-developed campgrounds and picnic facilities.

Little Cottonwood Canyon was formed by a glacier and has the typical "U" shape of a glaciated valley. The tall, granite cliffs and giant boulders attest the power of the grinding, scraping river of ice that carved them.

Big Cottonwood Canyon was cut by combined forces of ice and water and its towering rock walls of varied coloring and unique formations are indeed inspiring. Brighton, at the head of the canyon, is a typical summer and winter resort. The trails are rich in forest beauty. Twin Lakes, Lake Mary, Lake Catherine, Dog Lake, Doughnut Falls, and Moss Ledge Falls are easily reached by hikers.

A recent innovation in hiking, which proves that people are interested in the easy way to do things, is the 4,200-foot chair lift at Brighton. Although the lift was built to serve skiers, summer visitors were ready and waiting to take a scenic hike over the verdant slopes in a sitting position.

American Fork Canyon was cut by water. Its sides are precipitous and covered with conifers and shrubs on the higher parts. The canyon is without doubt one of the most beautiful in the State.

The Alpine Scenic Highway, appropriately named, connects American Fork and Provo Canyons. It threads its way back of Timpanogos Peak (11,957 feet), the highest in the Wasatch range, and drops down into Aspen Grove on the



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Hikers cross the perpetual snow banks in the shadow of “mighty Timpanogos” on the annual mid-July hike.

Provo side. Each year Brigham Young University and the Forest Service sponsor a program in the large amphitheater at Aspen Grove and afterward a hike to the top of Timpanogos Peak. Hikers find the trails excellent, the scenery breathtaking, as they pause at dainty Emerald Lake, then clamber up the “Timpanagos Glacier” and on to the top. Many hikers plan their trip so they can watch dawn break over the Uinta Mountains to the east.



F-253066

The peace and quiet of a shady forest road is part of every American's heritage.

The Upper Provo River and Mirror Lake region offers unusual scenery and opportunities for stimulating recreation. Here is found the lake region of the State. From Bald Mountain, near Mirror Lake, 50 lakes can be seen. Most of these are plentifully stocked with fish.

TIMBER PRODUCTION

Approximately 360,000 acres of the Wasatch are forested. The commercially important timber species are lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, and alpine fir. About 10 million board feet of forest products are cut annually. A small amount of finished lumber is produced for the building trades of nearby



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It is important at harvest time to leave the "forest farm" in condition to produce another crop of timber. Seed trees are left and protected from fire in order to perpetuate the forest and maintain the watershed.

population centers, and a considerable amount of rough native lumber and heavier structural timbers are produced for local agricultural, industrial, and mining use. Large numbers of straight lodgepole pine logs are used for mine props in Summit, Salt Lake, and Carbon County mines, and for power poles. Railroad ties and converter poles are also important products. Aspen for excelsior and basic cellulose, and junipers for fence posts are other products.

Long before the forest was established, the pioneers and early miners cut nearly all of the accessible and commercially important timber from that part of the forest lying in the Wasatch Mountains. For this reason, and also because the remaining old-growth trees and new reproduction are so important for watershed protection and have such high aesthetic value for the many recreationists, there is now practically no timber cutting on this part of the forest.

The Sheeprock and Stansbury Mountains of the Vernon and Grantsville divisions are more or less desert mountains and produce very little commercial timber. No commercial sales are made on these divisions, but some timber is sold at cost to farmers and ranchers in the vicinity.

The Blackfork, Kamas, and Granddaddy Lakes ranger districts, occupying the western end of the Uinta Mountain range, are the important timber-producing districts on the Wasatch. Here, more than 250 timber cutters and sawmill workers harvest the trees under the supervision of forest officers. Mature trees are cut but thrifty young ones are left for future harvests. All logging is done in a manner to protect small reproduction and to facilitate the establishment of a new stand of trees. The annual harvest of approximately 10 million board feet about equals the annual growth, thus assuring a constant supply of timber products.

Twenty-five percent of the money received by the Government from timber sales, grazing fees, and other resources, is returned to the State for distribution to the counties to be used for public schools and roads. An additional 10 percent is allotted to the Forest Service for improvement of roads and trails within the forest.

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

The Wasatch is the home of an estimated 32,000 mule deer, one of the finest deer herds in Utah. The Salt Lake district also supports about 500 elk. Beaver are abundant and marten, mink, and other valuable fur bearers are common, especially in the Uinta Mountain section of the forest. Birds and rabbits, squirrels, and other small animals abound in the forest and are a delight to recreationists.

The Wasatch is one of the State's most popular big-game hunting areas, serving as many as 12,000 hunters in a single year. The reason for this popularity is justified by the annual deer harvest of about 8,000 animals. In addition, carefully controlled hunts permit the removal of a small number of elk. Visitors coming to the forest for the first time for the purpose of hunting will find it helpful to check with the ranger on camping areas, special regulations, and where to go to get the best hunting.



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Deer are the most numerous of Wasatch game animals.

Most of the streams and lakes on the Wasatch have a stock of native fish. However, fishing effort is so heavy that this native stock must be supplemented by fish from State and Federal hatcheries in order to maintain good fishing. Some streams are paralleled by hard-surfaced highways, and a number of lakes have good roads up to their shores. Others, however, can be reached only by foot or horse trails; a number, particularly in the High Uintas Wilderness Area, are seen only by the most adventuresome cross-country traveler. To the latter, practically virgin fishing is available.

FORAGE FOR LIVESTOCK

Though watershed values on the parts of the Wasatch adjacent to Salt Lake City and Davis County are too great to risk grazing, much of the forest can be grazed under proper management. The mountain ranges on the Wasatch are utilized by approximately 6,700 cattle and 46,000 sheep belonging to some 340 ranchers who pay a nominal grazing fee.



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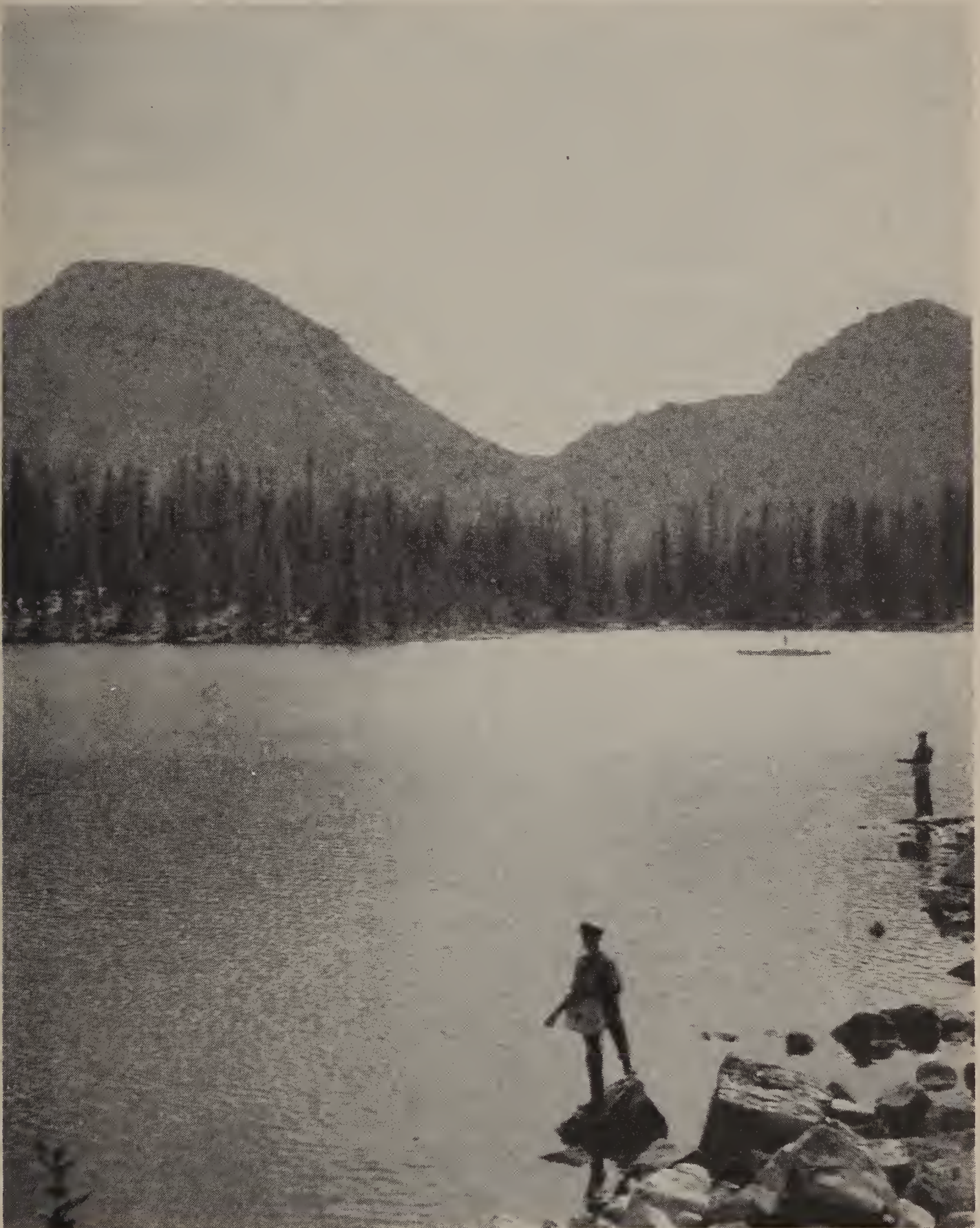
The high mountain ranges produce a crop of wool and meat.

Management plans are prepared for each grazing allotment and forest rangers supervise grazing use so as to maintain and improve the range. The grazing period is limited to the season during which forage may be used with least injury to the soil and plants. Beginning in the lower country early in the spring, the stock gradually move onto higher range as the season advances. Each year use of selected units is delayed until the plants have produced their crop of seed. The numbers of stock are limited to the grazing capacity of the ranges so that continued use, year after year, and stability of the livestock industry are assured.

HIGH UINTAS WILDERNESS AREA

The High Uintas Wilderness Area, which also extends into Ashley National Forest, is dedicated to those who enjoy America's remaining untouched and unspoiled beauties. The purpose of this dedication is to prevent the destruction or impairment of unique natural values and to afford opportunity for recreationists to enjoy travel under conditions like those that existed in the early days of the West. Here the public can engage in the forms of outdoor recreation characteristic of that period, thus helping to preserve national traditions, ideals, and characteristics which promote a true understanding of historical phases of our national progress.

This area is being preserved in a wild state. No roads or other provision for motor transportation are allowed, and there are no man-made structures except those necessary for protection from fire. Simple trails provide for foot and horseback travel. Prospecting, mining, and controlled grazing of livestock are permitted. It is the primary objective, however, consistent with good land management, to keep the area in its undeveloped primitive condition.



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Scout Lake, on the edge of the High Uintas Wilderness Area, will be remembered for its good fishing and excellent scenery.



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The High Uintas Wilderness Area, scoured by glaciers during the last ice age, is a roadless area of myriad lakes and rugged peaks.

The High Uintas Wilderness Area contains 244,000 acres of mountains, timber, lakes, and streams. Its western boundaries are within 3 hours driving time from Salt Lake City. It extends along the crest of the Uinta Mountains from the Mirror Lake region eastward to Kings Peak (13,498 feet), the highest in the State of Utah. The area is geologically unique because the Uinta Mountains are the only important mountain range in the United States that extends east and west; all others bear north and south. Besides Kings Peak, this massive mountain range has four other peaks more than 13,000 feet high. The area was covered with glaciers during the last ice age that scooped out hundreds of small depressions which are now lakes. Most of the larger of these lakes have been stocked with fish, and they offer good fishing against a backdrop of rugged alpine scenery and primitive forest conditions.

WINTER SPORTS

In the past, Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and American Fork Canyons were important mining districts. The mining camp of Alta is said to have had a peak population of 5,000 during its heyday from 1868 to 1873, but the mining interest dwindled rapidly until it is now but a token of its former size. A new

interest has come to these steep slopes, however. Each winter the glint of flashing skis and the joyous yodel of light-hearted skiers rivals the activity and noise of the old mining days.

The broad snow fields of the Wasatch Mountains, with their varied slopes tapped by wide hard-surfaced roads, are a skier's paradise. Six months of snow,



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The snow fields of the Wasatch are a skier's paradise. Alta boasts a six-month skiing season.

mostly the fluffy dry powder of a skier's dream, has turned the Wasatch into a veritable Mecca for winter sports enthusiasts from the world over. Alta in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Brighton in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Mountain in Emigration Canyon, Timp Haven in the North Fork of Provo Canyon, American Fork Canyon, and others offer lift service and other facilities.



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Lodges, occupying national forest land under permit, like this one at Brighton, are operated for the convenience of recreationists.

Alta was one of the first and remains one of the best winter sports areas in the United States. Here the Forest Service has undertaken a study of avalanches and the means of controlling them in order to prevent possible disastrous results to the skiing public. Weather instruments, snowstakes, sounding rods, protective skiing, and explosives have almost eliminated this hazard.

CAMP GROUNDS AND PICNIC AREAS

The Forest Service has developed a number of camp grounds and picnic areas on the Wasatch National Forest. Recreation demands are particularly heavy in the canyons adjacent to Salt Lake and Utah Valleys, and many of the suitable sites in these canyons have been made into pleasant, comfortable outing spots. Tables, stoves, and toilets are provided at all camps, and piped water is provided in most cases.

Some of the recreation facilities on the Wasatch are located as follows:

Altamont.—16 miles northeast of American Fork on State 80.

Aspen Grove.—21 miles east of American Fork on State 80; playgrounds, amphitheater.

Boxelder.—10 miles east of Salt Lake City via Mill Creek Canyon; community kitchen, playground, amphitheater.

Brighton.—29 miles east of Salt Lake City on State 152; playground, resort, ski lift.

Farmington Flats.—10 miles east of Farmington; playground.

Granite Flat.—16 miles northeast of American Fork in American Fork Canyon; playground.

Ledgefork.—32 miles northeast of Kamas on Holiday Park road.

Lower Big Cottonwood Canyon areas (Oak ridge, Ledgemere, Birches, Storm Mountain).—16–20 miles east of Salt Lake City on State 152; playgrounds, amphitheater.



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Family reunions, organizations, etc., like this group in the Boxelder amphitheater, find their needs well provided for at several large installations on the Wasatch. Reservations for the use of such areas can be made by contacting the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger.

Maple Grove.—18 miles east of Salt Lake City in Mill Creek Canyon; playground.

Mueller Park.—14 miles north of Salt Lake City via U S 89 and county road; playground, amphitheater.

Mirror Lake.—42 miles east of Kamas on State 150; boating; gateway to High Uintas Wilderness Area.

Redman.—17 miles east of Murray in Big Cottonwood Canyon; playground.

Shingle Creek.—12 miles east of Kamas on State 150; playground.

Spruces.—20 miles southeast of Salt Lake City in Big Cottonwood Canyon; playground, amphitheater.

Tanners Flat.—16 miles east of Sandy in Little Cottonwood Canyon; playground.

Terrace.—16 miles east of Salt Lake City in Mill Creek Canyon; playground.

Timponeke.—16 miles east of American Fork on Alpine Scenic Loop Highway, State 80.

South Willow.—11 miles southwest of Grantsville.

Soapstone.—20 miles east of Kamas on State 150.



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All food tastes better in the open air. City folk are beckoned by the cool shade and mountain breezes to well-developed picnic areas along excellent roads.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES—KEEP THE FOREST GREEN

1. Hold your match 'til its cold, then pinch it to make sure.
2. Crush out your cigarette, cigar, pipe ashes. Use an ash tray.
3. Drown your campfire, then stir and drown again.
4. Be sure stove and fireplace ashes are cold before disposal.
5. Put out any forest fire discovered if you can. If you cannot, report it promptly to the nearest forest officer or to the county sheriff.

KEEP THE FOREST CLEAN

Visitors are asked to observe the following health rules:

1. Help keep the waters pure. Mountain streams if contaminated will not purify themselves. Boil all suspected water.
2. Use the garbage cans and incinerators if they are provided. If not, burn or bury all garbage, papers, tin cans.
3. Do not wash clothing or utensils, or bathe in streams, lakes, or springs. Use a container and throw dirty water on the ground or in a receptacle away from water supply.
4. Use public toilets where available. They are located to protect the water supplies from contamination. Where toilets have not been provided, bury a foot deep all human excrement at least 200 feet from streams, lakes, or springs.
5. Skier, your powder snow becomes water and you may drink it in town. Please keep it clean.

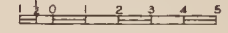


DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
LYLE F. WATTS, CHIEF
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WASATCH NATIONAL FOREST
UTAH AND WYOMING
SALT LAKE, SIXTH PRINCIPAL AND
UINTA SPECIAL MERIDIANS

1951

SCALE



LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- Main Motor Highway
- Good Motor Road
- Poor Motor Road
- Trail
- Railroad
- U.S. or State Highway Numbers
- Supervisor's Headquarters
- District Ranger Station
- Guard Station
- House, Cabin or other Building
- Municipal Airport
- Improved Winter Sports Area
- Camping and Picnic Area
- Wilderness Area Boundary
- Summer Home Area

REPORT ALL FIRES TO FOREST SUPERVISOR, RANGER,
GUARD, SHERIFF OR ANY TELEPHONE OPERATOR.

